

REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
Town of Amherst,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.



AMHERST:
CABINET PRESS,
1881.

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1881

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

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Treasurer in account with town of Amherst :

DR.—Cash received :

To balance in Treasury, March 1, 1880,	\$1,195 64	
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30	
“ “ 1879,	2,218 00	
Taxes assessed,	9,108 61	
Interest on taxes for 1879 and 1880,	39 61	
Insurance tax,	5 25	
Railroad tax,	257 36	
Savings Bank tax,	1,764 49	
Literary fund,	102 86	
Rent of Town Hall,	117 50	
Lots sold in Cemetery,	15 00	
Interest on Lawrence Fund,	70 00	
Rec'd of Wilton Railroad, rent of land,	20 00	
“ for use of road machine,	19 00	
	— —	\$15,309 62

CR.—By cash paid out :

State tax,	\$1,844 00	
County tax,	1,758 41	
Town officers,	785 25	
Miscellaneous,	1,308 99	
Snow bills,	465 13	
Roads and bridges,	554 62	
Principal and interest,	791 75	
Schools,	2,385 49	
Fire department,	153 15	
Repairs on Town House,	581 20	
Aid to G. Hill,	60 00	
“ Mrs. McClure,	41 00	
N. K. Holt, for Town Farm,	324 88	
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30	
“ “ 1880,	2,853 45	
“ Treasurer,	1,026 00	
	— —	\$15,309 62

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Daniel Trow, work with road machine,	\$90 80
Joel F. Osgood, work on road machine,	7 95
Lucius F. Bills, labor on highway with team,	265 40
John A. Powers, 28 feet drain pipe,	16 49
Leander Lovejoy, labor on highway,	4 25
George S. Eaton, " "	1 68
Geo. R. Hartshorn, " "	5 04
C. S. White, " "	85
Eben Meserve, " "	2 80
Benj. S. Messer, " "	70
Isaac B. Dodge, " "	7 53
James S. Parkhurst, " "	11 78
Chester Shipley, " "	16 82
C. J. Clark, " "	4 10
James Cochran, " "	7 75
Wm. B. Sargent, " "	27 57
Hiram G. Felton, " "	16 63
B. B. Whiting, " "	2 08
Rodney Prince, " "	56
Frank W. Mace, " "	1 25
Jos. H. Drucker, " "	3 00
Frederick Ford, " "	8 50
Henry M. Parker, lumber and labor on highway,	11 60
Frank Hartshorn, lumber and labor on bridge,	12 47
J. B. Upham, labor on bridge,	3 20
P. S. Barrett,	14 41
Daniel A. Peabody, labor on highway,	9 41

 \$554 62

SCHOOLS.

Chas. Richardson, Dist. No. 1,	\$939 51
C. Brennan, " 2,	106 95
by vote of town, dist. No. 2,	75 00
extra tax for surveying, dist. No. 2,	15 00
A. F. Annis, District No. 3,	191 13
Mark Putnam, " " 4,	175 58
Jas. C. Boutell, " " 5,	169 52
J. B. Upham, " " 6,	138 76
E. A. Parkhurst, " " 7,	161 68
A. S. Wilkins, " " 8,	119 79
Wilder J. Prince, " " 9,	128 39
J. E. Upton, " " 10,	116 02
W. R. Kennedy, " " 11,	24 10
extra school tax, " "	7 13
Geo. F. Hill, " " 12,	16 93
	<hr/> \$2,385 49

SNOW BILLS.

J. U. Prince,	\$1 50
George S. Eaton,	4 27
T. M. Harvell,	34 64
Frank W. Chase,	7 68
J. H. Fisher,	22 12
William B. Sargent,	27 35
Joseph Hassall,	11 04
James Cochran,	30 54
George R. Hartshorn,	10 49
James S. Parkhurst,	6 30
W. S. Peaslee,	9 95
C. S. White,	18 49
Chester Shipley,	4 79

A. B. Woodward,	2 00
Henry Secomb,	4 00
Daniel W. Trow,	12 35
Frank Hartshorn,	16 94
Albert Lowe,	11 95
Frank W. Mace,	20 63
John M. Prince,	3 75
Simon Ayer,	12 53
B. B. Whiting,	3 99
Carroll J. Crooker,	26 59
Horace S. Bontell,	9 40
John H. Upham,	13 79
Henry M. Parker,	20 00
E. A. Caldwell,	13 73
Frederick Ford,	18 90
F. Maxwell,	12 55
I. P. Weston,	2 62
Alpheus Stevens,	11 35
Daniel A. Peabody,	10 66
A. S. Wilkins,	22 35
John C. Philbrick,	17 92
A. B. Woodward,	7 91

\$465 13

REPAIRS ON TOWN HOUSE.

Frank Hartshorn, lumber for Town House,	\$6 84
James R. Stearns, " " "	6 83
J. Knight, " " "	7 37
E. R. Burt, labor on " "	38 50
Jas. Cochran, " " "	41 75
Henry M. Parker, " " "	44 70
" " " paper, curtains and fixtures for Town House,	49 82

J. B. Fay, articles furnished and labor on Town House,	152 47	
D. Sumner, paints and painting on Town House,	159 73	
R. West, cleaning Town House,	10 12	
H. E. Woodberry, nails, oils and paints for Town House.	63 07	
	<hr/>	\$581 20

PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

Barthanabus Ryan, boarding Mrs. McClure,	\$41 00	
W. D. Forsaith, goods for G. Hill,	60 00	
	<hr/>	\$101 00

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

Ellen F. McAlvin, interest,	\$26 00	
Frank Hartshorn, "	118 75	
Mary F. Hardy, "	10 00	
Abel T. Rideout, "	16 25	
Geo. W. Bosworth, "	6 25	
Mary R. Fletcher, "	65 00	
A. Milton Wilkins, principal and interest,	549 50	
	<hr/>	\$791 75

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A. A. Rotch, for Lawrence Engine Co.,	\$87 00	
E. E. Boutelle, for Yankee Engine Co.,	33 00	
J. B. Fay, steward,	17 15	
Services of Firewards,	16 00	
	<hr/>	\$153 15

TOWN OFFICERS.

Daniel W. Trow, selectman,	\$127 00	
Mark Putnam, “	90 00	
William Pratt, “	74 00	
R. T. Knight, treasurer,	50 00	
A. A. Rotch, town clerk,	58 00	
George W. Osgood, collector,	100 00	
G. Easterbrook, school committee,	60 00	
J. E. Upton. “ “	30 75	
George W. Bosworth, moderator, twice,	8 00	
P. Dodge and G. W. Bosworth, auditors,	6 00	
Joel F. Osgood, Jr., police,	8 50	
E. R. Burt, “	6 00	
F. R. Bouteille, supervisor,	6 00	
James U. Prince, “	10 00	
W. H. Hubbard, “	5 00	
Mark Putnam, overseer of the poor,	15 00	
Daniel W. Trow, “ “	23 00	
William Pratt, “ “	8 00	
George W. Osgood, liquor agent,	100 00	
		\$785 25

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ephraim W. Jones, sheep killed by dogs,	\$5 50
Benjamin S. Messer, “ “ “	5 50
William S. Peaslee, “ “ “	5 50
John A. Boutelle and others, watering places,	33 00
Amherst Aqueduct Co., water from Jan.	
1, 1880, to Jan. 1, 1881,	12 00
Josiah G. Davis, books for Library,	100 00
R. T. Knight, wood for town house,	12 50
Kimball Brothers, road machine,	200 00

A. A. Rotch, expenses decorating soldiers graves,	50 00
F. K. Boutelle, digging graves and work in graveyard,	63 45
Granville Parker, digging graves,	2 00
Henry H. Manning, watching fire at Melendy house, 1878,	1 50
Robt. Atkinson, watching fire,	2 00
John Carlton, repairing clock,	75
James U. Prince and others, appraising school property,	10 00
Mark Putnam, tax book and papers,	4 88
Copying and stationery,	11 75
R. T. Knight, expenses to Nashua, Concord and Manchester,	14 00
R. T. Knight, taking care of town clock,	15 00
Henry M. Parker, services and bills paid for town hall,	92 41
Albert Carlton, lettering water trough,	17 00
E. G. Richardson, tuning piano,	1 50
J. B. Fay, work on water trough,	3 65
Boylston & Rotch, year's bill, printing reports, advertising, &c.,	61 00
A. A. Rotch, notifying jurors, blank books, etc.,	8 50
Return of births and deaths,	3 25
Bounty on hawks,	7 40
Abatements for 1879,	160 23
“ 1880,	112 96
Non-resident highway receipts,	73 98
Discount on taxes,	217 78
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	\$1,308 99

TOWN DEBT.

Amount of notes against the town,		\$4,845 00
In Treasurer's hands,	\$1,027 00	
“ Liquor Agent's hands,	195 73	
“ Collector's “	3,229 75	
	— — —	\$4,452 48
Total amount of town debt,		<u>\$392 52</u>

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT T. KNIGHT, Treasurer.

AMHERST, Feb. 26, 1881.

We hereby certify that we have examined and audited the foregoing accounts of the Town Treasurer of the Town of Amherst for the present year, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

P. W. DODGE,	}	Auditors.
GEO. W. BOSWORTH,		

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

EXPENDITURES.

H. E. Woodberry, flour, groceries, etc.,	\$87 73
“ “ salt,	5 10
“ “ nails,	4 48
“ “ hungarian seed and grain.	16 50
“ “ scythes and axe,	3 10
A. F. Sawyer, grain,	93 98
“ “ flour, etc.,	8 10
“ “ slabs and plaster,	1 75
W. D. Trow, groceries,	12 21
Ira Chase, fish, etc.,	9 97
“ “ crackers,	4 50
George K. Walker, meat.	24 11
J. H. Holt, pork,	3 30
Foster Brothers, meat,	2 13
Meat bought in Nashua,	1 67
Vinegar,	3 02
W. D. Forsaith, grass seed, etc.,	13 82
F. W. Sargent, coffin and box.	13 00
John Coggin, use of rackets,	50
Charles Wright, rye.	1 00
J. A. Bontelle, seed corn, potatoes, etc.,	1 95
Mr. Stone, cabbage plants.	93
Mark Putnam, rye straw,	1 13
Daniel W. Trow, butter,	8 40

Meat barrels,	3 50
Dr. Gilson, one milk tube,	50
S. Ober, use of jackscrews,	50
Stephen Moore, butchering hogs,	1 00
H. M. Parker, pattern, plants, etc.,	1 55
Tinware, soap, etc.	3 07
Cotton & Thomas, barrel of flour,	7 50
Arthur Hill, potatoes,	14 50
Goods bought for Mrs. McClure,	7 00
Grinding corn,	17 22
A. M. McIntire, repairing harnesses,	3 42
H. S. Gilson, lumber and sawing,	9 45
Freight on horse rake,	1 29
F. W. Ordway, use of horse in haying,	5 00
J. F. Boynton, wringer and stove back,	5 35
J. F. Osgood, Jr., blacksmith bill,	21 20
George Walker, " "	7 05
Prof. A. Snyder, professional shoeing,	7 00
J. G. Pedrick, wheelright work,	6 30
Abram Newell, labor planting,	2 25
Harrison Bills, haying and cutting corn,	33 00
C. S. Carlin, eight months work,	120 00
W. A. Woodward, three months work,	36 00
A. A. Gilbert, labor, etc.,	6 12
Bart Ryan, labor,	12 50
Alonzo Shepherd, plastering,	2 00
E. R. and E. K. Burt, carpenter work,	19 35
Frank Hartshorn, lumber,	23 03
Gregg & Son, door and windows,	6 00
D. S. Burnham, hinges and bolts,	2 45
Kidder & Whitney, hardware	6 74
H. E. Woodberry, paints and oils,	16 23
" " randall harrow,	31 50
" " two manure forks,	2 20

H. G. Eaton, one sidehill plow,	11 00
Charles Williams, sled shoes,	5 25
W. D. Forsaith, stockbridge,	15 00
J. B. Fay, two pumps, etc.,	22 54
Sundries bought in Milford and Nashua,	10 00
Frank Hartshorn, one bull,	20 00
James S. Parkhurst, one bull,	18 00
Benj. Jones, use of boar,	2 00
J. A. Boutelle, one cow,	40 00
Joseph Crosby, “	37 00
Lukes & Mrs. Lynch, one cow,	32 00
James Cochran, “	40 00
Wm. Bruce, “	41 50
Cyrus Cross, sawing,	26 76
N. K. Holt, two pigs,	7 00
D. Whiting & Sons, grain and soap,	154 04
I. J. Burns, one mower,	75 00
S. E. Staples, horse rake,	28 00
James F. Weston, two cows,	80 00
S. E. Staples, one cow,	32 00
N. K. Holt,	250 00
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	\$1,711 24

RECEIPTS.

Eggs,	\$6 63
Turnips,	1 40
Beets,	1 55
Potatoes,	15 20
Pigs and pork,	37 45
Cabbages,	2 98
Rags,	40

Keeping peddlers and horse baiting,	2 05
Use of farm tools,	1 30
One day to mountain,	1 00
Keeping steers,	9 60
1 Bull,	25 00
Lumber,	16 88
Barrels,	2 20
Soap,	70
Calves,	11 75
Beef,	105 62
Use of grove,	19 00
Hay,	15 31
Hides,	8 14
Use of bull,	13 00
Milk sold,	1,083 10
Mowing,	2 40
Walnuts,	1 70
Hens to S. Wilkins,	2 00
Drew from treasury,	215 00
“ “	109 88
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	\$1,711 24
February milk bill due,	\$64 00
Due for timber	103 00
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	\$167 00

DANIEL W. TROW, } Overseers
WILLIAM PRATT, } of Poor.

We have examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY W. DODGE, } Auditors.
GEO. W. BOSWORTH, }

Amherst, Feb. 26, 1881.

Inventory of Personal Property at Town Farm.

18 tons English hay, 20.00,	\$360 00
20 " stock hay, 9.00,	180 00
Corn fodder,	25 00
Oat fodder,	14 00
Meal,	8 75
9 bushels corn,	7 00
Seed corn,	2 00
Beans,	2 50
2 horses,	250 00
18 cows,	720 00
1 bull,	20 00
4 hogs,	50 00
27 hens,	18 50
2 mowing machines,	80 00
1 horse rake,	20 00
1 horse rake and hoe,	10 00
1 roller,	15 00
5 ploughs,	40 00
1 road plough,	12 00
3 harrows,	39 00
2 cultivators,	4 00
1 horse fork and ropes,	15 00
1 hay cutter,	5 00
1 corn sheller,	5 00
3 hand rakes and 1 drag rake,	1 25
6 pitch forks,	3 00
4 shovels,	1 50
3 hoes, potato digger,	2 00

1 spade,	90
1 post axe,	1 00
1 iron bar,	1 25
3 wood saws,	2 75
6 axes,	3 00
Hinges, screws and hasps,	90
Hog hook and scalding tub,	75
Old iron,	1 00
Sled shoes and patterns,	5 75
4 manure forks and hook,	3 75
Light wagon,	40 00
1 double harness,	28 00
1 single “	10 00
1 sleigh,	8 00
Buffalo robe,	1 00
1 Lumber wagon,	60 00
1 farm wagon,	25 00
2 carts,	115 00
1 spare drag and stone body,	5 00
1 traverse runner sled,	30 00
1 ox sled.	7 00
2 yokes,	1 00
1 slide yoke,	6 00
2 horse yokes,	1 50
4 whiffletrees,	2 00
1 evener,	1 00
Wheelbarrow and hand sled,	6 00
5 chains,	5 00
1 scythe and snaths,	2 00
1 brand iron “Town of Amherst,”	50
Hook and ladders,	8 47
4 baskets,	2 00
1 set dry measures,	75
2 cart spears,	3 00
10 flour barrels,	1 75

Lumber and shingles,	108 00
2 pair steelyards, 4 augurs,	3 00
1 grindstone,	7 00
Sickles and corn cutters,	50
1 root cutter,	1 00
Chisel, screw driver and nippers,	1 70
Wedges and saw set,	1 00
Two-thirds barrel flour,	5 00
Paints and brushes,	3 00
Butter and lard,	2 00
1 gallon mollasses,	40
Tea,	60
Sugar,	1 00
Spices,	1 00
50 bushels potatoes.	32 50
10 " turnips,	2 25
2 " beets,	1 00
1 cider barrel,	50
Apples,	2 00
7 gallons pickles,	2 80
30 cans fruit,	6 00
Walnuts,	50
30 lbs. salt pork,	4 00
50 " ham,	5 00
100 " corned beef,	9 00
Bags and salt,	3 50
5 stoves,	40 00
3 tea kettles,	2 00
5 iron pots,	3 50
3 flat irons,	1 00
Frying pan and kettles,	1 00
1 apple parer,	50
3 butcher knives,	75
1 brass kettle,	3 00

Tin and cooking ware,	10 00
Crockery ware,	5 00
12 tumblers, 2 salters,	1 50
Spoonholder and castor,	50
Spoons, knives and forks,	1 50
1 tea pot stand,	25
3 lamps, 2 lanterns,	2 50
2 oil cans,	75
Stone and earthen jars,	1 45
Wash bowl and pitcher,	1 00
4 pitchers,	2 50
29 fruit cans,	2 75
1 jug,	60
Oil,	30
Candles and tallow,	1 25
200 lbs cabbages,	4 00
1 lounge,	7 00
6 cane chairs,	6 00
3 rocking chairs,	3 00
12 chairs,	2 00
4 tables,	10 00
8 light stands,	2 00
5 case draws,	5 00
Cloth horse and dry sink,	2 00
2 wash tubs,	2 00
4 wooden pails,	50
Wash boards and bench,	1 00
Floor brush,	50
9 bedsteads,	10 50
1 teapey,	1 00
Clothes line and pins,	50
Clothes wringer,	5 00
Clothes basket,	75
3 brooms,	50

Matches,	30
Garden seeds,	1 00
2 clocks,	5 00
5 mirrors,	3 00
2 coffee boxes,	50
2 trays, 1 pork barrel, ham barrel and beef barrel,	4 50
2 kegs,	1 50
2 buckets,	1 20
1 meal chest,	2 00
2 cheese safes,	3 00
1 carpet,	4 00
8 woolen blankets,	5 00
18 cotton sheets,	6 00
22 pillow slips,	3 00
21 quilts and comforters,	16 00
1 bolster,	1 00
20 pillows,	5 00
10 feather beds,	45 00
7 straw ticks,	3 50
1 cotton mattress,	50
4 table covers,	1 50
5 roller towels,	1 00
25 window screens,	50
Soap and soap grease,	2 00
8 cords wood,	20 00
Bibles and other books.	4 00
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	\$2,801 62

There has been one death at the farm during the year. There are now two paupers on the farm. The overseers and superintendent have made it their aim to improve the farm rather than re-

duce it. They have increased the number of cows and think it advisable to increase them still more.

DANIEL W. TROW,	}	Overseers
MARK PUTNAM,		of
WILLIAM PRATT,		Poor.

We have examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY W. DODGE,	}	Auditors.
GEO. W. BOSWORTH,		

Amherst, February 26, 1881.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

At the Annual Meeting of the Town in March, 1880, the control and management of the Library was given to a Board of Trustees, six in number, of whom two are retired annually, the usual term of service being three years. The following persons were elected, viz :

REV. J. G. DAVIS,	}	Term of service expires 1881.
MRS. P. W. DODGE,		

MR. J. E. UPTON,	}	Term of service expires 1882.
MRS. S. D. HERRICK,		

MR. JAS. F. WESTON,	}	Term of service expires 1883.
MISS L. B. MYRICK,		

Soon after their election the Trustees met and organized by the choice of a chairman, secretary and treasurer, and the appointment of committees. They also adopted suitable rules for the ordering of their own meetings, and the management of the Library; and employed a Librarian. The Board have held six meetings during the year, in which the rules, at first tentative and experimental, have been carefully revised, and reduced to a form, that is ready for printing whenever funds can be had for publishing a catalogue. They have kept a record of all inquiries for books, not in the Library, with the intention of meeting the wishes of our citizens as far as practicable.

The whole number of volumes added to the Library during the year is sixty-nine, of which sixty volumes, including two of Harper's Monthly Magazine, have been purchased at a cost of \$70.90.

Nine volumes have been presented, as follows :

Life and Times of Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Report of Commissioners of Education, and Report of Commissioners of Agriculture, by A. A. Rotch, Esq.

Uarda, 2 vols., by Mrs. George A. Spalding, New York.

Mass. Agricultural Report, 1879-80, and Report of Mass. Board of Education, by Wm. Blanchard, Esq., Roxbury, Mass.

N. H. Historical Society's Collections, Vol. V, and Genealogy of the family of John Lawrence, by Daniel F. Secomb, Esq. Concord, N. H.

An additional bookcase has been provided and the library placed in the Selectmen's room, which affords pleasant and convenient accommodations.

A recent examination of all the books in the library shows that by continued usage many volumes are badly worn, and twenty or more must be withdrawn from circulation. The number will not seem large if we consider the length of time they have been in service and the fact that none of the volumes have been rebound. There is a necessary deterioration in the materials of a public library which must be made good by rebinding shattered books and replacing such as are worn out. With proper care on the part of those who enjoy the privileges of the library in handling the books which are borrowed, the expense of rebinding will not be large. According to the report of the Librarian, the library has been open on every Saturday, P. M. in the year except one, the 29th of January, when the books were called in for examination. The average number loaned is nearly forty-three per week. The largest number at one time, sixty, the smallest, twenty. One hundred and forty-two families have drawn books. The whole number loaned, 2,100. No books have been lost during the year and all were returned to the library for the annual examination. Fines collected for books overdue, \$1.56. New labels containing abbreviated regulations have been inserted in all the volumes. The circulation is becoming more uniform and the library is held in increasing favor

and with more intelligent interest throughout the town. The contents of the library would be more available and its value better understood if we had a complete catalogue, and a greater variety of reading could be furnished if the fund at our command were adequate to our wants. It is desirable that the library should be insured. To secure a policy of \$500 on the books and cases would be wise as the building in which they are stored is the property of the town and not insured.

The Trustees have received from the funds of the		
Amherst Library Association,	\$3 09	
From fines and extra loans of books,	3 76	
Worn and imperfect volumes sold,	1 00	
Town appropriation,	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$107 85
They have expended for new books, (see bills on file)		\$63 70
Harper's Monthly, 2 years, '80 and '81,	7 20	
New labels, 1200,	2 10	
Marking, labelling and repairing books,	4 00	
Repair of bookcase and incidentals,	1 40	
Salary of Librarian,	25 00	
Balance in treasury,	4 45	
	<hr/>	\$107 85

The balance on hand will be needed to pay for rebinding volumes now at the bindery.

In submitting this report the Trustees are of the opinion that the interests of the community and the evident usefulness of the library warrant an advance on the sum now given for the maintenance of this institution.

Amherst, February 22, 1881.

Report of the Superintending School Committee,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

The Selectmen, in their returns in April, 1880, report the whole number of children in town, between the ages of 5 and 15, to be 134, girls, 50, boys, 84. This is quite a decrease from the number reported last year. The number of scholars attending the several schools throughout the town is but a little smaller than last year. There has been a decrease in attendance in the High School, due partly to the removal of several youths out of town, and partly to rules adopted by the district at the annual meeting, in regard to pupils attending the school from without the district. Most, if not all of the schools, have had more weeks of school than last year. The regularity of attendance, the deportment and progress made in the several studies have been, with a few exceptions, very gratifying. Some deficiencies noticed and regretted by the committee need not here be spoken of, as they are due largely to the district system, which, by vote of the town at its last meeting, will be abolished at the close of the present year. When the new system of a Board of Education is inaugurated and fairly at work, many of these deficiencies will doubtless disappear, and, if the new system works as favorably in this as in other towns where it exists, the whole town will enjoy increased educational advantages. We bespeak for the new system the hearty co-operation of all who have an earnest desire that the youths of our town shall enjoy the best possible advantages for education and individual improvement.

An important and needed change has been made during the

past year in the text book of Arithmetic. Eaton's Arithmetic had been used in the schools for several years. Few, if any, new books had been purchased recently, but old books had been handed down by one member of a family to another until the greater part of the books in use had become soiled and torn and unfit for use. In addition to this the method of instruction employed in Eaton's Arithmetic has been superseded by better and more desirable methods in books of more recent authorship. In consideration of these facts the committee determined that a change was both desirable and necessary, and, after careful examination of several different books, concluded to introduce the Franklin Series of Arithmetic into the schools. This series of books is in use in the public schools of Boston, and in several of our cities and large towns. Among the many commendable features in this Arithmetic we may mention the skillful and judicious combining of the oral and written work. The books have given complete satisfaction and in most of the schools the increased interest and proficiency in the study of Arithmetic attest the good result of the change. The schools have now a uniform series of text books in the three important studies, Arithmetic, Geography and Reading. A change of books is much needed in other studies and will doubtless be made in time. The following is a brief report of the several schools:

DISTRICT NO. 1, UNDER THE SOMERSWORTH ACT.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Charles Richardson. Superintending Committee, G. Easterbrook.

There have been three terms in each department, the last term being quite long. The primary department has had the same teacher throughout the year, a circumstance not always desirable, but in this case proving a great benefit to the school. A school composed of children of the age of those in this one

is obviously difficult to manage. In governing children the best result is secured by observing the mean between the two extremes of a too strict and a too lax discipline. The essentials for this are a love for children and a good understanding of the child nature. Both of these essentials this teacher possesses. She accordingly met with success in her year's work. She has maintained good order in the school, but so easy and natural was the restraint put upon the children that they were conscious only of freedom. It was a pleasure to visit this school. The teacher loved her scholars; the scholars loved their teacher. Without further remark it will be inferred that commendable progress has been made in the several studies pursued. We have only praise for this school and its teacher. She ought to be permanently retained.

The High School in the summer and fall terms was taught by a teacher well known from former services in the same school. She is decidedly original in her method of teaching, but her originality is not maintained at the expense of a good understanding of her work and common sense. Almost perfect discipline was secured by this teacher, and thus she prepared the way for the progressive and thorough work accomplished. In addition to the regular studies pursued in this school several higher branches were studied during the first two terms. A very commendable feature of the second term's work was the letters and compositions, for the best of which a prize was offered by the teacher. Good work was done in the first term under this teacher, but in the second term the work was very marked and gratifying.

The winter term of the High School was taught by a gentleman who has had experience in teaching similar schools and came well recommended. It is a misfortune to a school to have a change in teachers, so long as the teacher in office is one of ability and successful, even though the successor be equally able. The new teacher will necessarily have methods different

from those of the preceding one. With these as well as with the teacher, personally, the scholars must become acquainted before work fairly begins. Thus, valuable time is consumed and often interest and zeal previously existing die out. The gentleman who taught this school the last term has approved methods of instruction and met with fair success. There was a lack of that spirit of animation and that interest which was observed in the first two terms, noticeably in the second, due largely to the above mentioned cause. On the whole, however, good work has been done. There has been a large class in Arithmetic, two in Algebra, one in Geometry, one in Commercial Arithmetic, two in Book-keeping, their work being quite neat and accurate, and one class in Civil Government.

An assistant was engaged for this term who has had charge of the classes less advanced in the several studies. It is a serious mistake to suppose that such scholars can get along with any teacher. They need the very best. The assistant this term labored under difficulties. She was young, inexperienced and a member of the main school. In numbers the school was small compared with the last term of the previous year. The number of scholars from without the district was small. There has been good order both in school time and during the intermissions. New blackboards have been put into both rooms of this school.

DISTRICT NO. II.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Cornelius Brennan.

This school has enjoyed three terms of schooling the past year. All three of the terms have been taught by the same gentleman who taught the school the previous year. His command over the scholars and his success in the work of the school seem to justify the course pursued in engaging him two years in succession. There are some bright scholars in this

school. In the examinations, although there was evidence that a fair knowledge of the subject had been gained, yet we could have wished for less exhibition of memory and a clearer understanding of principles. The attendance was somewhat irregular, the order good. A better school house is much needed.

DISTRICT NO. III.

Prudential Committee, Mr. A. Annis.

Very little was accomplished in this school the first term, which was suddenly ended because of the sickness of a teacher, who, at the beginning, was physically unfit for a teacher's work. The second term accordingly found the school in poor condition. There were many discouragements and obstacles in the way of success to the teacher who was engaged for this term. She met these difficulties and gained success beyond our expectation. Good order was maintained, marked improvement in reading secured and a new interest infused into the whole school. Being unable to be present on the last day of the term, we happened in unexpectedly before the day appointed for examination. If the school did any better on the examination day, it did marvelously well. In the third term a change of teacher was unavoidable, but, fortunately, a wise selection was made and the school went right on in its good work. This teacher commanded good order and taught the scholars to be self-reliant in their work. There has been a large number of visitors to this school. Of this school was true the proverb, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning."

DISTRICT NO. IV.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Mark Putnam.

One teacher through the year, and a good one. A good

school in all respects. It deserved more notice from the residents of the district. We were not satisfied in the last examination with the work on the board in Arithmetic. The answers to questions were given with readiness. The school was small in numbers, but a good degree of interest was maintained. Few words of praise need be spoken for a school in which, out of eight scholars, three were present every half day of the last term. We have no better record of attendance on our list.

DISTRICT NO. V.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. C. Boutelle.

The first term of this school was taught by a lady from the New London Academy. Her method of teaching was good and she worked hard for the school. But the school was small and uninteresting. The scholars did not know what real study meant. They had evidently been accustomed to lean upon the teacher for help to such a degree that when the teacher of this term rightly left them to do their own work they hardly knew what to do. An estimate of the kind of work that had been done in this school in the previous year may be formed, when it is said that of a class which had been through the Arithmetic, not one could write numbers with accuracy and facility, and of a class who had studied Geography a year, not one could tell what Latitude was. The teacher, therefore, had not only her own work to do but previous erroneous work to undo. She did well, and, if she had staid another term, the school would have been in a good condition. Unfortunately the severe sickness of the teacher at the last of the term prevented a public examination.

The next two terms were taught by a teacher who had taught the school for several previous terms. Hence her methods are well known and have been commented upon in former reports. The fact that she has taught this school for so many terms is an

indication that she is liked. It was hinted that there was, in this school, too great familiarity between the girls and boys. The last day witnessed a large number of visitors present, a splendid exhibition of memory and the most disarranged and dilapidated school room in town. The pieces spoken were some of them good and well rendered, others had well been omitted. There is room for improvement in this school.

DISTRICT NO. VI

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. B. Upham.

The evidently good discipline of the first term was not supplemented with the thoroughness which characterizes a successful school. The second term will compare favorably with any in town. What the school lacked in numbers the teacher supplied with industry and good methods. Music and many exercises were added to the usual work of the school and the result was most gratifying. We cannot help adding a word of praise to the parents for their evident interest.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Prudential Committee, Mr. E. A. Parkhurst.

This district is to be congratulated for securing the services of a teacher who has taught here so long and with such eminent success. As a result of previous teaching Miss C. understands the needs of each pupil, and she has proved fully competent to supply the demand. A ruling motto seems to have been, "not how much, but how well." During one term a large class gained a good general idea of the Constitution of the United States in connection with a regular lesson, and, in the same way, American and English literature have been taught with the best results. The success which has attended these and all other studies, the lively

interest and promptness excited in the younger scholars and the consequent good attendance cannot but have an effect which shall be elevating and lasting.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Samuel Wilkins.

Average work was accomplished in the first term of the school. For the remainder of the year, the school was taught by a gentleman well known in town who has given considerable attention to the subject of teaching. There were several things that needed rectifying in the school and this work the teacher accomplished. There seemed to be a spirit of indifference in the school at which we did not greatly wonder when we saw so few of the parents and friends present on the last day. Some of the classes gave evidence that good work had been done ; and of all the classes, though there was not in all cases readiness in answering questions, we may say that what had been learned was understood and not merely memorized.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

Prudential Committee, W. J. Prince.

A beginner in the profession, the teacher here has not done as well as she will with more experience. The school, like every other young team, needs a pretty tight rein to insure success, and in this there was a lack on the part of the teacher and, consequently, a similar deficiency in the scholars. Fair progress has been made and the school stands we think on a higher plane than one year ago.

DISTRICT NO. X.

Prudential Committee, J. E. Upton.

This school, though small, has always earned a good reputation and we are glad to report a continuance of the same. Under the efficient discipline of the past year, we believe that no department has suffered loss, and that fair progress has been made. Thoroughness in most studies, an improvement in rhetorical exercises, good attendance and a better form of going to and from the seats were among the results of the term.

In the foregoing account, we have endeavored to give a fair and impartial review of the several schools under our care. We have not hesitated to praise where praise was merited. With equal readiness, we have, in a kindly spirit, when circumstances demanded it, censured. Appended is a table of statistics.

Respectfully submitted,

G. EASTERBROOK,	}	Superintending
J. E. UPTON,		School Committee.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of District.	No. of Term.	TEACHERS.	Length in Weeks.	No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	No. between 5 and 15.	No. over 15.	No. between 5 and 15 not attending school.	Wages per month.	Visits by S. S. Com.	Visits by Prud. Com.
1 } 1 } 1 } High.	1st.	Miss Helen M. Mead.	11	23	21	17	6		\$50	4	3
	2d.	" " " "	12	27	25	16	12		50	4	1
	3d.	Mr. James P. Tuttle.	13	36	32	15	21		58	6	1
1 } 1 } 1 } Prim.	1st.	Miss Viola R. Clark.	11	46	40	43			32	4	4
	2d.	" " " "	12	52	45	48		2	36	4	1
	3d.	" " " "	13	48	40	45		2	36	6	1
2 2 2	1st.	Mr. J. J. Doyle.	10	24	20	23	1	2	25	2	2
	2d.	" " " "	12	25	20	24	1		25	2	2
	3d.	" " " "	8	19	15	19			26	2	2
3 3 3	1st.	Miss Fannie J. A. Bullard.	6	19	15	14	16	1	2	24	1
	2d.	Miss Eva A. Sawyer.	11	16	14	13	15	1	2	24	2
	3d.	Miss Marie A. Bowers.	13	19	18.4	17	2	2	24	2	3
4 4 4	1st.	Miss S. Jennie Chase.	10	9	7.8	8	1	1	20	2	2
	2d.	" " " "	11	9	8.4	8	1		21	2	2
	3d.	" " " "	10	8	7.9	7	1		21	2	1
5 5 5	1st.	Miss Mary E. Tilton.	8	8	7.5	8			24	2	
	2d.	Miss Ellen M. Mahor.	8	8	6.2	8			25	2	1
	3d.	" " " "	10	7	7.4	6	1		25	2	1
6 6	1st.	Miss Ada H. McIntire.	8	17	15	17			18	2	1
	2d.	Miss Esther C. Kendall.	15	15	13	13	2	1	24	2	2
7 7 7	1st.	Miss M. Louie Coolidge.	4 2-5	17	16.5	15	2	3	23	1	
	2d.	" " " "	10	19	16.8	16	2		23	2	
	3d.	" " " "	9 4-5	20	18.5	14	5	2	25	2	1
8 8 8	1st.	Miss Clara Towne.	3 3-5	10		9	1	7		1	
	2d.	Mr. J. E. Upton.	8	18	16.4	16	2		28	1	
	3d.	" " " "	8 3-5	17	15.7	15	1		28	2	1
9 9 9	1st.	Miss Stella M. Prince.	8	13	12	12	1	1	20	2	
	2d.	" " " "	11	12	10	8	3		22	2	
	3d.	" " " "	9	11	10	8	3	1	22	2	
10 10	1st.	Miss Ina B. Wilson.	10	13	11.8	13			20	2	2
	2d.	" " " "	15	13	12.1	13			22	2	2

Whole No. Scholars in Town, 134.

Average attendance, 17.6.

Amount of money raised by tax for the support of schools, \$2,006.

Amount of Literary Fund, \$102.86.